



By: _____

H.B. No. 3002

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student loan repayment assistance for speech-language pathologists employed by a rural public school.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter EE to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER EE. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
EDUCATION LOANS

Sec. 61.9751. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Public school" means a public preschool or primary or secondary school in this state.

(2) "Speech-language pathologist" means a person licensed as a speech-language pathologist under Chapter 401, Occupations Code.

Sec. 61.9752. REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of student loans for speech-language pathologists who apply and qualify for assistance.

Sec. 61.9753. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible to receive repayment assistance, a speech-language pathologist must:

(1) apply to the board; and

(2) at the time the speech-language pathologist applies for the assistance, have been employed as a speech-language pathologist for at least one year by, and be currently employed

1 full-time by, a public school located in a rural community.

2 (b) The board by rule may provide for repayment assistance
3 on a pro rata basis for speech-language pathologists employed
4 part-time by a public school located in a rural community.

5 Sec. 61.9754. LIMITATION. (a) On qualifying for the
6 assistance, a speech-language pathologist may receive repayment
7 assistance grants for each year of employment by a public school
8 located in a rural community, not to exceed five years.

9 (b) The amount of repayment assistance grants that a
10 speech-language pathologist may receive for each year of employment
11 by a public school located in a rural community may not exceed 20
12 percent of the speech-language pathologist's total principal
13 amount of student loans.

14 Sec. 61.9755. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide
15 repayment assistance for the repayment of any student loan for
16 education at an institution of higher education, including loans
17 for undergraduate education, received by a speech-language
18 pathologist through any lender.

19 (b) The board may not provide repayment assistance for a
20 student loan that is in default at the time of the speech-language
21 pathologist's application.

22 (c) Each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt to
23 provide repayment assistance in amounts sufficient to use all the
24 money appropriated to the board for that biennium for the purpose of
25 providing repayment assistance under this subchapter.

26 Sec. 61.9756. REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any
27 repayment made under this subchapter in a lump sum payable to the

1 lender and the speech-language pathologist, in accordance with any
2 applicable federal law.

3 (b) A repayment made under this subchapter may be applied
4 only to the principal amount of the loan.

5 Sec. 61.9757. ADVISORY COMMITTEES. The board may appoint
6 advisory committees to assist the board in administering this
7 subchapter.

8 Sec. 61.9758. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS. The board may accept
9 gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this subchapter.

10 Sec. 61.9759. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules
11 necessary for the administration of this subchapter, including
12 rules relating to the definition of a rural community.

13 (b) The board shall distribute a copy of the rules adopted
14 under this section and pertinent information regarding this
15 subchapter to:

16 (1) each institution of higher education;

17 (2) any appropriate state agency; and

18 (3) any appropriate professional association.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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MAR - 7 2007

MAR 15 2007

Filed with the Chief Clerk

Read first time and referred to Committee on **Public Education**

Reported _____ favorably (as amended)
(as substituted)

Sent to Committee on (Calendars)
(Local & Consent Calendars)

Read second time (comm. subst.) (amended); passed to third reading (failed) by a (non-record vote)
(record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting)

Constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days suspended (failed to suspend)
by a vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting

Read third time (amended); finally passed (failed to pass) by a (non-record vote)
(record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting)

Engrossed

Sent to Senate

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

OTHER HOUSE ACTION:

Received from the House

Read and referred to Committee on _____

Reported favorably _____

Reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute; Committee Substitute read first time

Ordered not printed

Laid before the Senate

Senate and Constitutional Rules to permit consideration suspended by (unanimous consent)
(_____ yeas, _____ nays)

Read second time, _____, and passed to third reading by (unanimous consent)
(a viva voce vote)
(_____ yeas, _____ nays)

Senate and Constitutional 3 Day Rules suspended by a vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays

Read third time, _____, and passed by a (viva voce vote)
(_____ yeas, _____ nays)

Returned to the House

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

OTHER SENATE ACTION:

_____ Returned from the Senate (as substituted)
(with amendments)

_____ House concurred in Senate amendments by a (non-record vote)
(record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting)

_____ House refused to concur in Senate amendments and requested the appointment of a conference committee
by a (non-record vote) (record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting)

_____ House conferees appointed: _____, Chair; _____,
_____, _____, _____

_____ Senate granted House request. Senate conferees appointed: _____, Chair;
_____, _____, _____

_____ Conference committee report adopted (rejected) by the House by a (non-record vote)
(record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays, _____ present, not voting)

_____ Conference committee report adopted (rejected) by the Senate by a (viva voce vote)
(record vote of _____ yeas, _____ nays)